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Installation Assessment Walter Reed Army Medical Center Washington, D.C.

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The views, opinions and conclusions contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as official Department of Army positions or policy unless so designated by other documentation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Background and Introduction	1
General Discussion	2
Locator Diagram	3
Photo Discussion Area: WRAMC	
1970	4, 5
Photo Discussion Area: Forest Glen Annex	
1951	6, 7
1957	8, 9
1964	10, 11
1970	12, 13
Findings	14

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

Background

The Environmental Photographic Interpretation Center, through an interagency agreement between USEPA and U.S. Army, was requested to provide imagery analysis support for the USATHAMA Installation Assessment Project. The following report represents an incremental product of Overhead Monitoring for the FY 83 Initial Installation Assessment subtask phase. This subtask calls for a detailed historical analysis of thirteen select installations to identify possible areas of past use, storage, treatment, and disposal of potentially toxic and hazardous materials.

Archival black and white aerial photography, of an appropriate scale, was acquired from the imagery libraries of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. An attempt was made to locate imagery that would provide five years of photo coverage for each installation, spanning the thirty-year period between 1940 and 1970. However, in some of the less populated sections of the country, where only sparse photo coverage exists, this was not possible.

Introduction

Black and white imagery from 1951, 1957, 1964 and 1970 was analyzed to determine potential environmental hazards which may have occurred at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) or the annex (Forest Glen). A photo enlargement of 1951 imagery is provided as a location diagram, showing both WRAMC and the Forest Glen Annex. Photo enlargements of each year of imagery with accompanying overlays are provided to annotate detailed information concerning the sites identified at WRAMC and the annex.

General Discussion

The main hospital and medical research center (WRAMC) is located in Washington, D.C. It is bounded on the north, east and south by high to low density residential development. Rock Creek Park, principally a wooded and open area, is to the west.

The annex site (Forest Glen) is in a low density urban residential setting with some light industrial and commercial activities nearby.

The main medical and research center presents no discernible hazardous threats to the environment that can be detected from the imagery. However, a potential concern exists at Forest Glen, in the form of a landfill that was active for several years but apparently has not been used recently as a disposal site.

LEGEND

—x—	Fence/Installation Boundary
D/A	Disturbed Area
E/T	Exposed Trash
MM	Mounded Material
U/C	Under Construction
-------	Historical Boundary
·——→	Drainage
— — —	Access Road
···——→	Intermittent Drainage
)(	Culvert

LOCATION DIAGRAM
WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER and FOREST GLEN ANNEX MARCH 26, 1951 APPROX. SCALE 1:16,500

Discussion: WRAMC (Main Site) (1970 Photo)

Very little can be said relative to potential environmental hazards at WRAMC. The site consists of the main medical treatment facility; institutes of pathology, nursing and research; administrative buildings; barracks and service buildings. There are no impoundments or water courses within the installation. Routine household refuse is transported to other locations for disposal. Due to the nature of this site, no other photos or discussion are presented.

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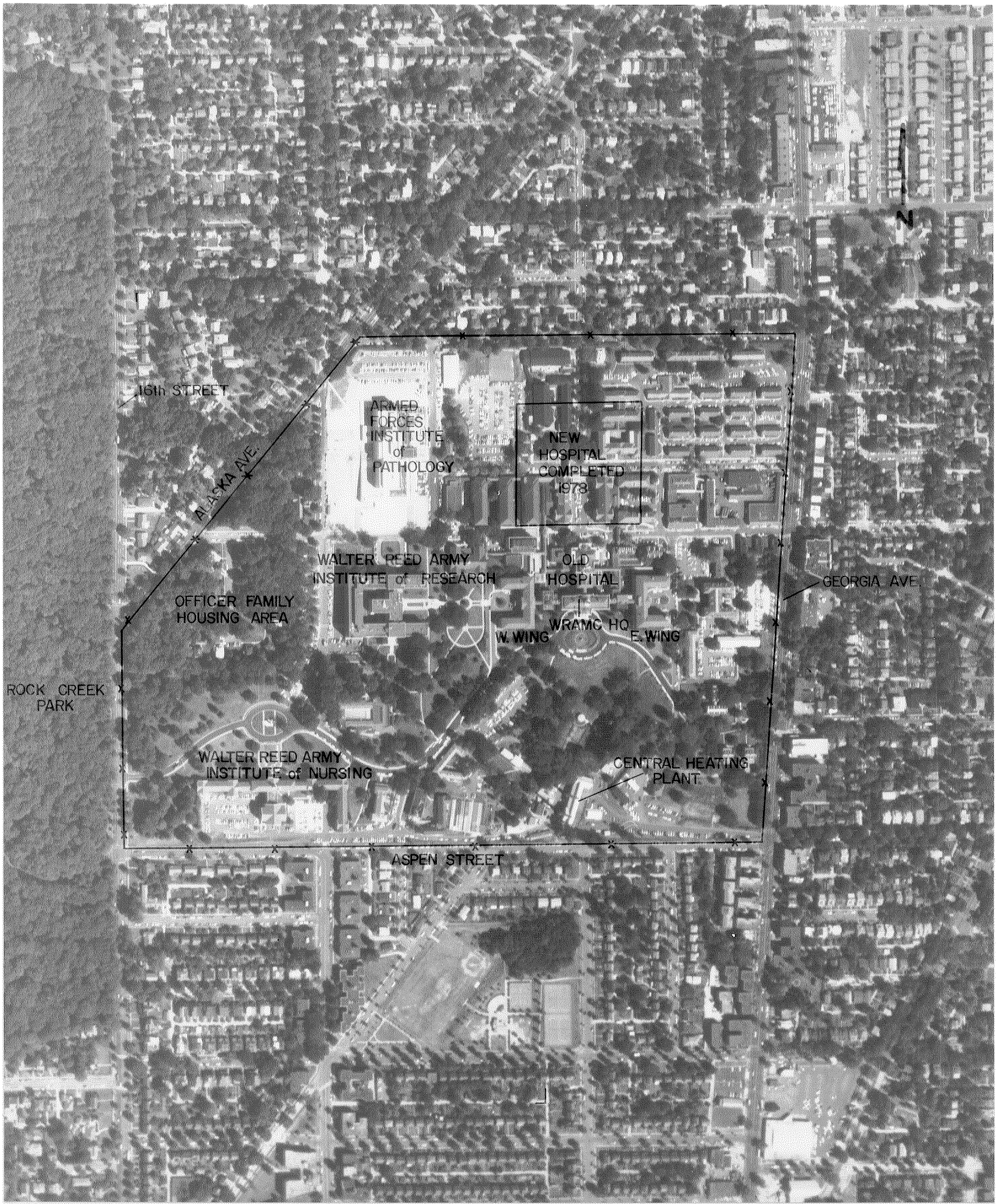
) (	Culvert



WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER SEPTEMBER 1, 1970 APPROX. SCALE 1:5,100

Discussion: Forest Glen Annex (1951 Photo)

Site 1 - An area of disturbed ground just south of an athletic field is being filled. No debris or trash is visible.

Site 2 - Two small disturbed areas are visible.

Site 3 - Two areas with a disturbed ground surface appear at the end of an access road. This indicates a probable disposal site, although no exposed trash is seen.

Site 4 - A disturbed area in the south central section of the annex is shown. A recently excavated trench and two piles of mounded material indicate a strong possibility of a burial site.

Site 5 - A large disturbed area is probably being prepared for the construction of buildings.

Drainage from the annex area flows westward via several small tributaries into Rock Creek. Due to the heavy foliage, the tributaries are not visible on this photo but are annotated on the location photo.

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)(	Culvert

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER–FOREST GLEN ANNEX OCTOBER 13,1951 APPROX. SCALE 1:5,000

Discussion: Forest Glen Annex (1957 Photo)

Site 1 - Six years later, the disturbed area has shifted southward. The original section has been graded and is partially revegetated. The extended area has some recent scarring which indicates continued activity. The site is probably still being filled.

Site 2 - The easternmost part of this site has expanded in size, contains a pile of mounded material and may be a possible landfill. The western part of this site appears to have been incorporated into a clearing which extends to the south and west across the access road. An additional access road leads to a structure which is situated off the northeastern edge of the site.

Site 3 - One of the two disturbed areas is larger in size; the other one appears to have revegetated. A new disturbed area is evident just north of the original site.

Site 4 - The open trench and disturbed area shown on the 1951 photo no longer exist. The site is now graded and revegetated. There is an incinerator smokestack just north of Site 4.

Site 5 - The site is now occupied by various research buildings.

Drainage from the annex flows generally westward toward Rock Creek. Runoff from several of the sites would flow into tributaries of Rock Creek.

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···——→	Intermittent Drainage
)(	Culvert

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER–FOREST GLEN ANNEX APRIL 15, 1957 APPROX. SCALE 1:5,000

Discussion: Forest Glen Annex (1964 Photo)

Site 1 - Activity is still evident; the disturbance is again moving southward. Mounded material is clearly observed. Filling has apparently been occurring here for a number of years.

Site 2 - The site has expanded in size while becoming more centralized since the 1957 photo. Material being deposited here has the appearance of trash or rubble indicative of a landfill. A pile of probable exposed trash can be seen along the roadside just west of the site. The structure observed earlier is no longer evident.

Site 3 - No significant activity can be detected. However, the access road to this area appears to be used. The site has now revegetated.

Site 4 - No change has taken place since the 1957 photo. The incinerator smokestack remains.

Site 5 - Some new construction has taken place; otherwise there has been no change.

Drainage has not been altered significantly.

LEGEND

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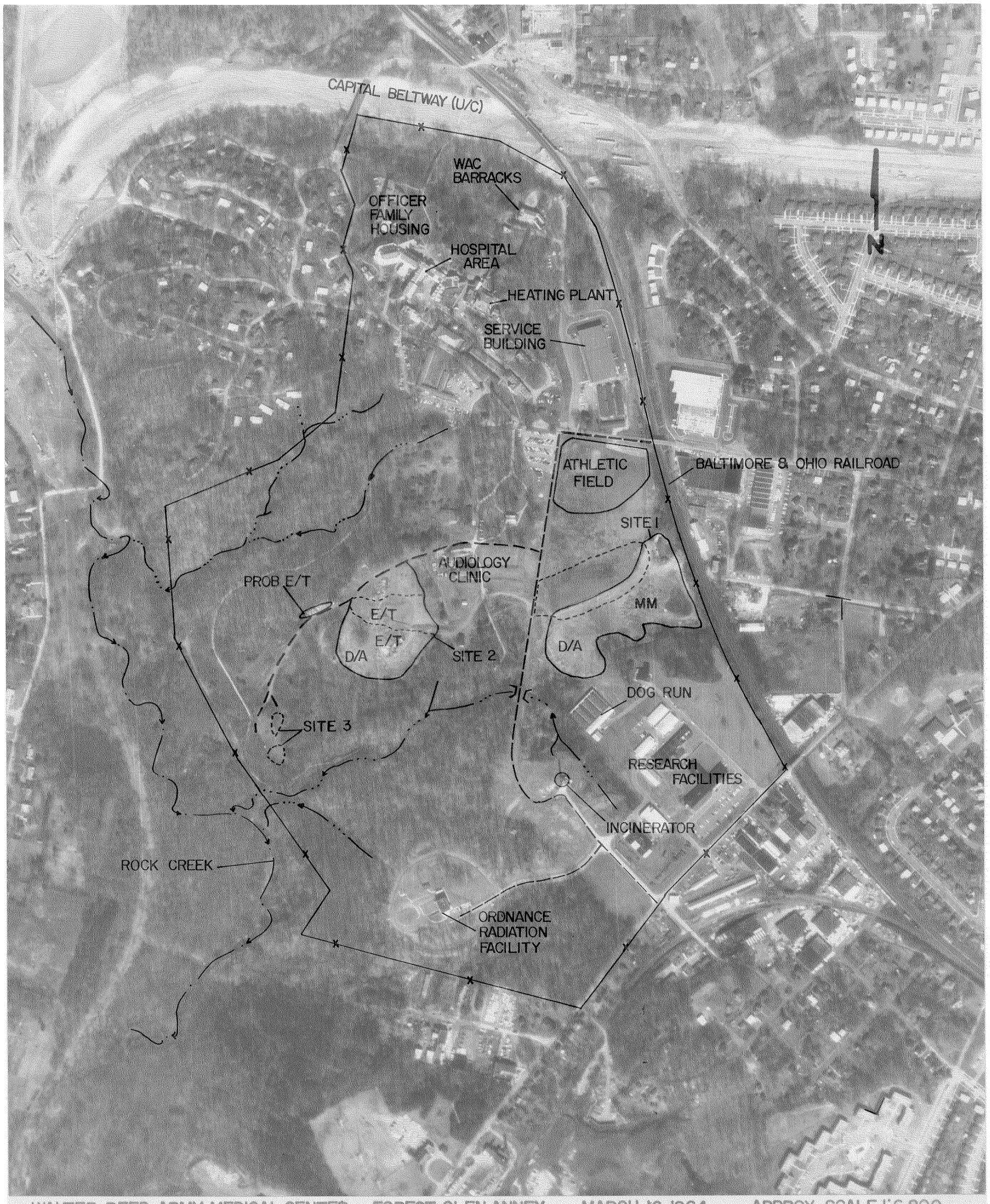

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER — FOREST GLEN ANNEX MARCH 16, 1964 APPROX. SCALE 1:6,800

Discussion: Forest Glen Annex 1970

Site 1 - Filling continues. The main military post exchange, commissary and parking lots are under construction north of the active area.

Site 2 - The landfill has expanded. Current filling areas are indicated by the presence of dumping and probable dumping. Athletic fields are being constructed on former areas of the landfill.

Site 3 - No significant change. The site has revegetated.

Site 4 - The incinerator and smokestack have been removed. A newly constructed building is now located where Site 4 had previously been.

Site 5 - Construction of research buildings has continued on the area formerly occupied by Site 5.

Due to heavy vegetation cover, drainage cannot be annotated. However, little change has occurred due to activities at the annex area.

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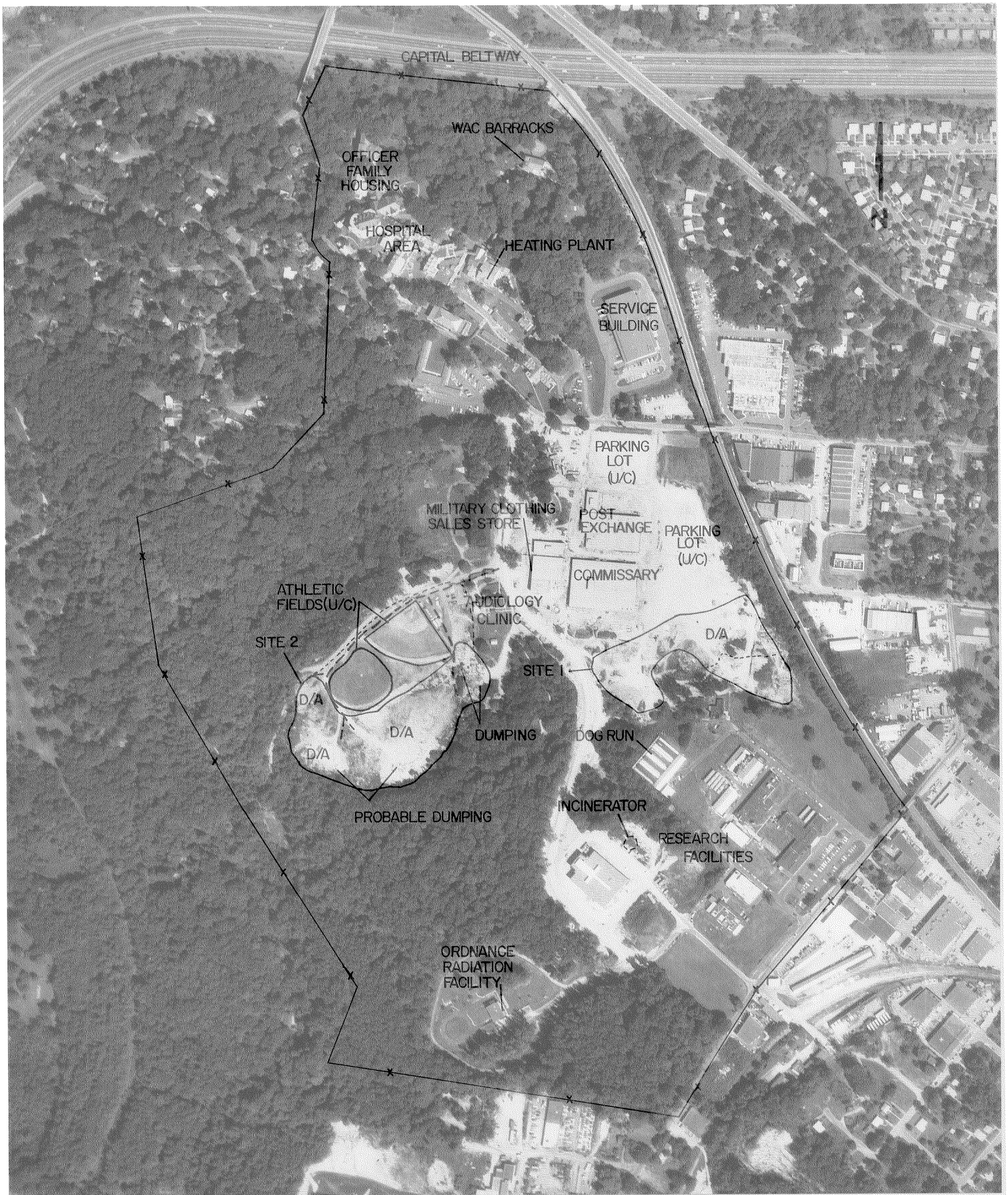

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER—FOREST GLEN ANNEX SEPTEMBER 1, 1970 APPROX. SCALE 1:5,000

Findings - Forest Glen Annex

A. Vegetation Stress/Damage and/or Leachate Indicators

Signatures indicating the presence of leachate and vegetation stress could not be detected from the imagery.

B. Installation Activities

Liquid waste treatment or disposal was not evident at any time.

Disturbed areas were noted at each site during the study period. A trench was evident at Site 4 indicating a possible burial site and Sites 1, 2 and 3 appear to have been landfills or disposal areas.

C. Other Activities

An incinerator is located in the southern part of the annex.